

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A tire having a component of a rubber composition which comprises

(A) elastomer(s) consisting of 100 parts by weight of at least one diene-based elastomer selected from homopolymers and copolymers of isoprene and/or 1,3-butadiene and copolymers of at least one of isoprene and 1,3-butadiene with a vinyl aromatic compound selected from styrene and alpha methylstyrene,

(B) about 10 to about 150 phr of at least one particulate reinforcing filler comprised of about 10 to about 100 phr of at least one particulate synthetic silica-based material having hydroxyl groups on the surface thereof ~~being comprised of~~ selected from at least one of aggregates of synthetic amorphous silica, fumed silica, and silica modified carbon black, and correspondingly, from zero to about 80 phr of rubber reinforcing carbon black, and

(C) at least one organo-metal ~~of at least one of~~ compound as an organo-tin, ~~organo-~~ titanium and ~~organo-~~ zirconium compounds;

~~wherein said organo tin compound having a valence of four is of the following general Formula (I), with corresponding specifications (I-a):~~



~~wherein:~~

~~(I-a) Q is oxygen, a and b are zero, d is equal to one, and R_y is an alkyl radical containing from one to 25 carbon atoms, where R_z is an alkyl radical containing from one to 25 carbon atoms;~~

~~wherein, optionally, one or more of R_x, R_y, and R_z are alkyl radicals containing heteroatoms, selected from at least one of Silicone, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Oxygen, and Sulfur~~
selected from the group consisting of dibutyltin dilaurate, di-n-butylbis(2-ethylhexanoate)tin, di-n-butylbis(2,4-pentanedionate)tin, di-n-butyl diacetoxytin, di-n-butyl diacrylatetin,

di-n-butyl dimethacrylate tin, dimethyldineodecanoate tin, dioctyldilauryl tin and dioctyldineodecanoate tin.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said rubber composition is exclusive of additional additive(s) which will readily react with hydroxyl groups contained on the surface of said silica-based material to create an alcohol.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said rubber composition is exclusive of any additional additive selected from at least one of bis-(3-alkoxysilylalkyl) polysulfides having an average of at least 2 connecting sulfur atoms in its polysulfidic bridge, alkoxy silanes, and alkyl silanes.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said silica-based material is in a form of aggregates of synthetic amorphous silica.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said silica-modified carbon black is a carbon black modified by treatment with an alkoxy silane or by co-fuming carbon black and silica at an elevated temperature.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said organo-metal compound is introduced to the rubber composition as a composite of said organo-metal compound and said silica based material or as a composite of said organo-metal compound and said carbon black.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said organo-metal compound is introduced to the rubber composition as aggregates of synthetic amorphous precipitated silica which has been pre-treated with said organo-metal compound.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said organo-metal compound is ~~selected from at least one of dibutyl tin dilaurate, di-n-butyl bis(2-ethylhexanoate) tin, di-n-butyl bis(2,4-pentanedionate) tin, di-n-butyl diacetoxystannic, di-n-butyl~~

~~di-n-butylacrylatetin, di-n-butylmethacrylatetin, dimethyldineodecanoatetin,
dioctyldilauryltin and dioctyldineodecanoatetin.~~

9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Cancelled).
14. (Cancelled).
15. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said diene-based rubber composition contains a syndiotactic polybutadiene polymer.
16. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 1 wherein said diene-based rubber composition contains a tin coupled elastomer prepared by organic solvent solution polymerization of monomers selected from 1,3-butadiene, isoprene and styrene diene monomers, and wherein said elastomers are selected from at least one of butadiene copolymers, isoprene/butadiene copolymers, styrene/isoprene copolymers and styrene/isoprene/butadiene terpolymers.
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Currently amended) [[A]] The tire [which contains at least one component comprised of a rubber composition of claim 1] of claim 1 wherein said component is a tire tread.
19. (Currently amended) [[A]] The tire of claim 8 [having a tread which is comprised of a rubber composition of claim 1] wherein said component is a tire tread.
20. (Currently amended) [[A]] The tire of claim 1 having a tread of a cap/base construction where said tread cap is designed to be ground-contacting and said tread base is not intended to be

ground contacting, wherein ~~at least one of said~~ component is said tread cap and tread base is comprised of a rubber composition of claim 1.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 8 wherein said rubber composition is exclusive of any additional additive selected from at least one of bis-(3-alkoxysilylalkyl) polysulfides having an average of at least 2 connecting sulfur atoms in its polysulfidic bridge, alkoxy silanes, and alkyl silanes.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 8 wherein said silica-based material is in a form of aggregates of synthetic amorphous silica.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~rubber composition~~ tire of claim 8 wherein said organo-metal compound is introduced to the rubber composition as aggregates of synthetic amorphous precipitated silica which has been pre-treated with said organo-metal compound.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).